

## ABSTRACT

The invention provides a method for predictively assessing one or more characteristics of wood fibre or wood pulp produced from solid wood. The method comprises the steps of determining the velocity of sound through the solid wood, and assessing characteristic(s) of wood fibre or wood pulp produced from the wood by reference to the velocity of sound through the solid wood. The method may also comprise the steps of causing a sound wave to be transmitted through the wood, determining the velocity of the sound wave through the wood, and comparing the result to stored information on fibre characteristic(s) versus sound velocity through the wood-type to determine the fibre characteristic(s) for the wood.

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